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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BRUSSELS 004410

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SUBJECT: EU CONTINUES TO EXERT PRESSURE ON SUDAN: SNYDER
CONSULTATIONS

REF: BRUSSELS 4016

Classified By: PRMOFF MARC J. MEZNAR. REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

1. (SBU) Summary. During October 11 consultations with Department's Senior Representative on Sudan Charles Snyder, the EU shared Snyder's assessment that concluding a comprehensive peace settlement between the North and the South was essential to stabilize the country. Snyder said the EU's generous assistance package was an important "carrot" in this process. The two sides discussed ways to cooperate in expediting the deployment of an expanded AU protection force to Darfur. Javier Solana's Personal Representative for Sudan Pieter Feith said he would encourage EU Member States to provide in-kind logistical support. EU military planners, however, cautioned that too much pressure to "fast forward" the deployment might provoke a failed mission. Nonetheless, EU advisors in Addis are helping the AU reformulate its request for EU funding that would allow 1000 military personnel to be on the ground in Darfur by October 30. The Commission is prepared to fund up to 50 percent of this entire operation. The EU informed Snyder that a high level EU delegation led by Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot would leave for Sudan on October 12. The EU will pressure the Sudanese government to finish the Naivasha peace talks and to end the violence in Darfur. Following a meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg on October 11, the EU again called on the Government of Sudan to disarm the janjaweed militias and to facilitate humanitarian access. They also said the threat of sanctions against Sudan must be maintained. End Summary.

North-South Peace Agreement

2. (SBU) In separate meetings with the European Commission and the European Council on October 11, Snyder gave readouts of his recent meetings with Sudanese Vice President Taha and other officials in the region. The EU shared his assessment that concluding a comprehensive peace settlement between the North and the South was essential to stabilize the country. Anders Henriksson, Director for Horn, East and Southern Africa (DG Development), said that EU Foreign Ministers would stress this point in their conclusions on Sudan later in the day. Snyder characterized the large EU assistance packages as an important "carrot" to encourage the opposing factions to work towards a comprehensive peace settlement. Henriksson said that the longer the two sides took to finalize the peace accords, the less money would be available. Already, 10 percent of the total package for Sudan has been re-programmed to other parts of Africa (including the EU's number one priority on the continent, the Great Lakes). The EC also noted that increasing revenue from oil makes the Sudanese less dependent on development assistance.

3. (U) The EU informed Snyder that a high level EU delegation led by Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot would leave for Sudan on October 12. The EU will pressure the Sudanese government to finish the Naivasha peace talks and to end the violence in Darfur.

4. (U) Note. The EU Council conclusion Henriksson referred to "notes with appreciation the resumption of the negotiations between the GoS and the SPLM/A under the auspices of IGAD and urges both parties to conclude the discussions on the outstanding issues as soon as possible, to sign a comprehensive peace agreement and to implement it without delay. The Council is of the view that a speedy conclusion of the 'Naivasha process' could provide a political platform to address the underlying causes of the ongoing conflicts in Sudan, including Darfur; to accelerate the pace of reforms; to promote human rights; and to establish a genuine and constrictive dialogue with the political forces that are not present in Naivasha." End note.

Expanded AU Mission in Darfur

5. (C) The two sides also discussed at length the role of the AU in stabilizing the situation in Darfur. Fernando Valenzuela, Deputy Director General of DG RELEX, spoke of the delicate balancing act between allowing the AU to take ownership of the process while providing enough support to

ensure a successful outcome. He said that the UN was well placed to convey to the AU the importance of the donor community's involvement with the logistical planning and deployment of the expanded monitoring and protection force. Valenzuela also opined that the AU should see the logic in acknowledging they are not ready to go at it alone. Both sides agreed that the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) might mirror the role played by AMIB in Burundi -- a bridge to a full-fledged UN peacekeeping operation.

16. (C) The EU asked about the "BBQ approach" (broad, big and quick) to deployment in Darfur, recently espoused by the U.S.

Council Secretariat Coordinator of Political-Military and Defense Policy Relations Matthew Reece expressed doubt whether "fast forwarding" the mission was logistically possible. He said that since there was virtually nothing on the ground to support a large deployment, equipment and supplies would have to be procured and then flown in. Snyder said that because helicopter gunship attacks on civilian populations were continuing (he reported an additional 10,000 people had been displaced over the past few days), the U.S. was committed to support an expanded deployment as soon as possible. He explained that the U.S. goal is for 10,000 military personnel to be on the ground in Darfur by October 30; Snyder indicated the Pentagon would make two C-130's available to ferry in troops.

17. (C) Reece said he understood the purpose, and noted that Peter Stamps, an EU advisor in Addis, was helping the AU reformulate its request for financial support from the EU's Africa Peace Facility to meet this goal. Feith said he would encourage EU Member States to provide in-kind logistical support. He also stated that Solana was planning to travel to Addis on or about October 21, right after the AU's Peace and Security Council is expected to approve the expansion of the AU ceasefire commission in Darfur. The EU hopes to receive a list of requirements at the earliest opportunity. According to DG Development Sudan Desk officer, Joaquim Salgueiro, the Commission is prepared to fund up to 50 percent of the expanded deployment (estimated total is 180 million euros for 12 months).

18. (U) Note. EU Council conclusions on the AU mission in Darfur state: "The Council reaffirms its commitment to assist the AU in the planning and implementation of a significantly expanded pro-active monitoring mission with a sufficiently broad mandate, in order to improve the security in Darfur." It also takes note of the GoS's commitment to "cooperate with an enlarged AU monitoring mission with an expanded mandate and a possible police component, as decided by the AU." End Note.

Genocide Designation

19. (C) Regarding genocide, Valenzuela noted that the EU had not been as forward-leaning as the U.S. because the implications of making such a designation were enormous. He welcomed the formation of a UN committee to investigate and noted that an Italian national was invited to participate. Regarding the European Parliament's resolution that events in Darfur were "paramount to genocide" (reftel), Valenzuela said that there was no legal consequence within the EU system or any obligation to act as a result of the finding. Valenzuela agreed with Snyder's assessment that the Sudanese were well able to withstand a sanctions regime. He added that the main EU sanction -- a freeze in assistance -- was already in place.

110. (U) Note. EU Council conclusions relating to genocide state: "The Council welcomes the recent mission and the recommendations of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and of the UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide in Darfur. The Council further welcomes the decision of the UNHCHR to increase the number of human rights monitors in Darfur. The Council welcomes the UNSC Resolution 1564 and the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into violations of international humanitarian law and human rights in Darfur by all parties, with a mandate that includes investigating whether acts of genocide have occurred in Darfur. The Council calls upon all parties to extend their full cooperation to this Commission of Inquiry." End Note.

Other issues

111. (C) The two sides touched briefly on other issues. Regarding the political situation in Khartoum, the EU expressed its continuing fears of a total collapse of the government and disintegration of the country. Both sides agreed on the positive contributions Egypt has made and expressed disappointment for the lack of progress made in Abuja. Regarding the humanitarian situation, they noted improvements including a huge expansion of national and

international NGOs operating in the region. However, they agreed that these gains were offset by new displacements of civilians.

12. (U) Note. The EU Council conclusion of October 11 requests that "the GoS provide information on actions taken thus far to neutralize and disarm the Janjaweed militias and to bring to justice perpetrators of human rights violations and crimes against civilians." In also "notes with urgency the need for additional humanitarian assistance and coordination. The EU has already committed well over 300 million euros. The Council also emphasizes that humanitarian assistance and measures to enhance security are mutually supportive, and deserve equal attention by the international community." End Note.

Comment

13. (C) All EU interlocutors were extremely thankful for Snyder's report fresh from the field, particularly as Henriksson was leaving within hours for Sudan as part of the Dutch Presidency's delegation. Although Sudan plays second fiddle to the primacy of the Great Lakes with regard to EU interest in Africa, it still is considered an important, developing situation. Furthermore, the EU is well aware of the importance the U.S. attaches to Sudan. It's willingness to financially support a stepped-up expansion of the AU protection force in Darfur -- despite advice from its own technical experts to go slowly -- reflects this understanding.

(Ambassador Snyder has cleared this message.)

Minimize considered.

SCHNABEL